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AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

administration · engineering · operations

Taming Telecom For City Hall

1985 Awards of Merit

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

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BPA

December 1985 Vol. 100, No. 12

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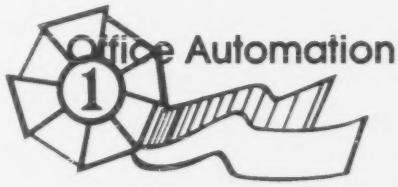

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About the Cover

Telephone system technology is enhancing the productivity and effectiveness of local governments, while providing better services to citizens. The cover story beginning on page 22 explains how. (Photograph by Neil Copeland of Atlanta.)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

The **Municipal Cost Index** for December leveled at 336.0 for the second month, dropping from a yearly high of 337.4 in September.

The **Construction Cost Index** rose slightly by 0.1 percent to 366.3, up from a one-point decrease in October and a two-point drop in November. Also higher is the **Consumer Price Index**, which shows a 0.3 percent gain for the month, while the **Producer Price Index** continues to decline — down 0.5 percent for December and 1.2 percent compared to 1984.

Products in the fuel and oil family showed, by far, the biggest increases in this month's marketbasket. Fuel oil no. 2 reported a 10.7 percent jump, while diesel fuel had a substantial 5.9 gain. □

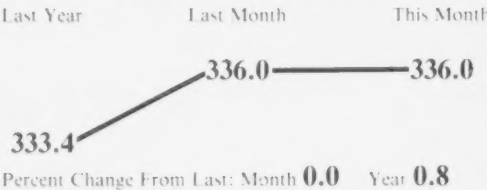
— Terri Stone

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	147.6	0.1	2.0
Apparel	184.3	0.4	2.2
Asphalt Roofing	406.3	−0.5	−0.4
Books	133.8	0.8	4.7
Chemicals, Industrial	339.5	−0.4	0.5
Coal	551.1	0.8	0.4
Concrete Products	323.3	0.2	3.7
Construction Machinery	362.8	1.6	0.1
Diesel Fuel	627.2	5.9	−5.0
Electric Components	197.4	−0.1	1.0
Electric Lamps	346.9	0.7	4.5
Electric Power	462.4	−0.3	1.3
Engines, I.C.	348.4	0.3	2.7
Fans, Blowers	359.7	0.0	2.3
Fertilizers, Mixed	258.2	−0.5	−2.5
Floor Coverings	191.9	0.3	−0.3
Flow Instruments	232.3	−0.1	N/A
Footwear	259.3	0.3	2.9
Foundry Products	364.1	−0.1	0.2
Fuel Oil No. 2	668.7	10.7	−2.4
Furniture	311.6	0.7	4.7
Gasoline	562.4	−2.2	2.3
Generator Sets	351.6	0.1	3.4
Glass	225.5	−0.4	2.6
Glass Containers	386.9	1.4	6.1
Gypsum Products	329.6	−2.5	−7.3
Hardware	305.7	−0.1	2.2
Heating Equipment	261.5	0.2	2.3
HVAC Controls	126.5	0.5	0.7
LP Gas	523.2	3.0	−12.0
Lubricants	368.4	−0.2	−0.2
Lumber	332.4	−2.9	N/A
Metal Fabrications	315.1	0.0	1.0
Millwork	313.3	−0.2	1.9
Motor Vehicle Parts	356.1	−0.2	0.6
Mowers	261.5	0.0	0.6
Natural Gas	1370.0	0.5	−4.2
Office Machines	154.9	0.0	0.8
Paint	276.8	−0.1	−0.1
Paper	303.3	−0.1	−1.1
Passenger Cars	209.5	−8.1	−1.3
Plumbing Fixtures	313.6	0.0	3.0
Plywood	230.1	−3.2	−5.5
Portland Cement	358.4	−0.7	1.2
Residual Fuel	932.4	0.2	−16.0
Sand, Gravel	309.8	−0.4	3.9
Sanitary Papers	380.3	0.1	3.4
Soaps, Detergents	274.8	0.1	3.3
Sporting Goods	203.5	0.4	−1.2
Steel Mill Products	365.6	0.0	−0.7
Struc. Clay Products	297.0	0.1	2.6
Switchgear	278.0	0.0	0.1
Tires, Tubes	236.6	0.0	−3.1
Transformers	231.8	−0.2	1.4
Trucks	316.7	−5.0	−3.4
Valves	105.1	0.2	2.3
Wire, Cable	205.6	0.0	1.9
Wiring Devices	361.7	0.0	1.3

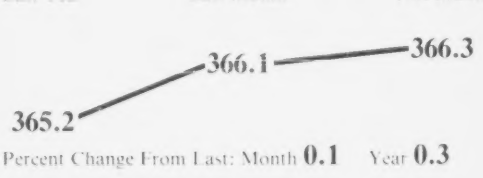
At-A-Glance Changes

MUNICIPAL COST INDEX



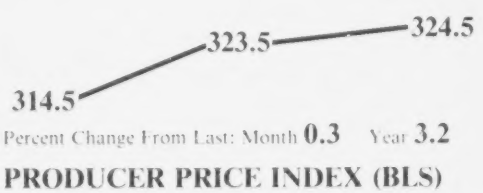
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.0** Year **0.8**

CONSTRUCTION COST INDEX



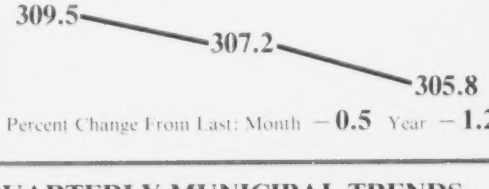
Percent Change From Last: Month **0.1** Year **0.3**

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **0.3** Year **3.2**

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX (BLS)



Percent Change From Last: Month **−0.5** Year **−1.2**

QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year:
Receipts	558.0B	2.3	7.2
Federal Grants	98.1B	3.2	5.3
Durable Purchases	15.0B	2.0	7.1
Consumables	39.1B	2.4	7.7
Services	382.5B	2.0	8.4
Structures	50.1B	13.6	13.3
Salaries, Wages	278.3B	1.8	7.7
Surplus	50.3B	−6.3	−7.7
Employment	13.451M	−0.2	1.9